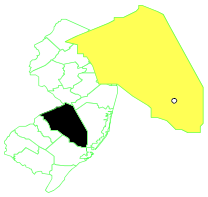
WOODLAND ROUTE 72 DUMP

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD980505879



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 03
Burlington County
Woodland Township

Other Names:
Manahawkin Site

Site Description

The Woodland Route 72 Dump site is a 12-acre industrial dump located along Route 72, just two miles away from an almost identical site on Route 532. Both are on the National Priorities List. From the early 1950s to the mid-1960s, various wastes were brought to this uncontrolled disposal site in 55-gallon drums and in bulk transport. Records indicated that the wastes were dumped into open pits and trenches, and then burned. However, investigations revealed that substantial amounts of these wastes were just buried. In addition to numerous chemical contaminants in soil and water, there were some areas of the site where gamma radiation exposure is greater than the EPA-recommended action level. Active commercial cranberry bogs lie 1/2 mile northwest of the site. Approximately 900 people live within a 4-mile radius of the site; only one private residence is located within a 3-mile radius. Land use in the area is limited to cranberry and blueberry cultivation, and harvesting of cedar and pine for wood products. Residents rely on ground water for drinking, household use, and irrigation; about 20 people use private wells within 3 miles of the site. The closest well is 1½ miles from the dump. There is no evidence of well contamination. The site is located within the Pinelands National Reserve, which was created by the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. Pope Branch, an intermittent stream, is located approximately 500 feet north and 1,000 feet west of the site. Wetlands are located approximately 1/4 mile southwest of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 09/01/83
Final Date: 09/01/84

Threats and Contaminants

Ground water is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatiles, heavy metals, and pesticides. The surface at two areas on the site had elevated levels of gamma radioactivity (from thorium-232, radium-226, and uranium-238). Off-site sediments contained lead. Surface and subsurface soils were contaminated with VOCs, semi-volatiles, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and the pesticide DDT; metals were also present. Surface and subsurface sludge wastes contained a range of compounds, including VOCs, acids, semi-volatiles, DDT, PCBs, and metals. Phenol and lead have been detected in off-site surface water. A chain-link fence, installed in 1986, restricts access to the site. People who drink contaminated ground water may also be at risk. Pollutants from the site may be harmful to wildlife inhabiting the Pinelands National Reserve.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions, and two long-term remedial phases directed at cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1986, a security fence was constructed to restrict site access.

Entire Site: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) completed a study of soil and ground water pollution at the site in 1989. In 1990, EPA and NJDEP selected the cleanup remedy, which included excavating all contaminated surface materials and disposing them at an approved off-site facility, and installing a ground water extraction and treatment system, with reinjection of the treated water back into the aquifer. By January 1991, waste materials were removed and disposed of by potentially responsible parties at an EPA-approved facility. In 1993, a subsurface soils study was completed, which indicated that there was no contamination in the subsurface soils that poses a risk to human health and the environment. In September 1993, NJDEP documented that no further action was necessary regarding the subsurface soils; EPA concurred. In 1997, the potentially responsible parties conducted a study that analyzed and compared the groundwater remedy selected in the Record of Decision (ROD) with an alternative combination of air sparging-soil vapor extraction with natural attenuation. In April 1999, NJDEP amended the groundwater remedy from the extraction and treatment system selected in the 1990 ROD to a combination of air sparging-soil vapor extraction with natural attenuation; EPA concurred.

Site Facts: In 1990 and 1991, Administrative Orders on Consent were signed between the State and several potentially responsible parties. The parties agreed to undertake the cleanup of the surface soils and ground water, and perform the study on sub-surface soils.

Cleanup Progress  (Actual Construction Underway)

By January 1991, a combined amount of approximately 100,000 cubic yards (160,000 tons) of contaminated waste materials were removed from both the Route 532 and Route 72 sites and disposed of by the potentially responsible parties at an EPA-approved facility. By constructing a fence to limit site access and removing a substantial amount of waste materials, the State, EPA and the potentially responsible parties have reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous materials on the Woodland Route 72 Dump site while the final cleanup remedy for the ground water is being designed. In April 2000, NJDEP approved the natural attenuation portion of the groundwater remedy. In June 2000, NJDEP approved the design for first phase of a multi-phased air sparging-soil vapor extraction system. Construction of the first phase was completed in July 2001. It is anticipated that construction of the second and final phase of the air sparging-soil vapor extraction system will be completed in the Fall of 2002.